

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicants wish to thank the Patent Examiner for the indication that claims 1 to 20 are allowed.

The amendments to this Patent Application are to cancel rejected claim 21, and to amend claim 22. This revision to claim 22 is to change the dependency of claim 22, such that it now depends from allowed claim 17, rather than depending from now cancelled claim 21. Claim 12 was amended to insert a hyphen into the expression "XY-stage" which hyphen was previously inadvertently omitted. Thus, the scope of claim 12 has not been affected by this Amendment. In claims 18 and 20, the word "combination" has been added to the preamble of each claim, since claims 18 and 20 depend from claim 9.

In the Amendment previously filed on December 15, 2003, the revision to claim 1 was merely to insert a semicolon. Thus, a punctuation error was corrected without making any

change to the scope of claim 1. The previous amendments to claim 6 and 14 were merely editorial in nature and did not affect the scope of claims 6 and 14.

In summary, claims 1 to 20 have been allowed; claim 21 has been cancelled; and claims 12, 18, 20 and 22 have been amended. In view of these amendments, it is firmly believed that the present Patent Application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt Notification of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Helmut LUDL - 2

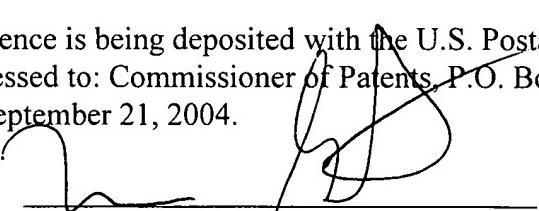
BY: Edward R. Freedman

Collard & Roe, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
ERF:lgh
Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicant

Enclosures:

- 1) Notice of Appeal with Extension of Time for three (3) months
- 2) Check for \$640.00 to pay for Extension of Time and to pay for Appeal Fee

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 21, 2004.


Maria Guastella